

From: Dr Elly Claus McGahan <eclausmcgahan@sound-decisions.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 12:37 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Energy Code New residential construction, heat pumps

External Email

October 13, 2022

To: SBCC
State Building Code Council
PO Box 41449
Olympia, WA 98504-1449

RE: Energy Code: Heat Pump Proposals

Dear Council Chair,

Thank you for already requiring electrification in new construction of large buildings. Heat pumps are both an environmental and an economic solution for large and residential buildings. Thank you for the first move in tackling large buildings.

I live in Tacoma, WA and have served on the Sustainable Tacoma Commission, and currently serve as Board member on the Tacoma Public Utilities Board largely because of my concerns about climate change and climate justice. The need to decarbonize, reduce pollution inside and outside of our buildings, and support vulnerable populations in this time of transition to relying on clean energy is clear from multiple sources: [IPCC](#), [CDP](#) (Carbon Disclosure Project), [ICLEI](#) and others. It is a local issue as we've seen from rain events leading to flooding, mud slides, sea level rise, heat domes as in summer 2021, changing weather patterns affecting farming and vegetation in our parks, and lots of smoke events effecting our air quality. We need to electrify our buildings and heat pumps are both a decarbonization solution and an economic solution.

Tacoma in its [CAP](#), and Pierce County in its [PC Sustainability 2030](#) both advocate for building electrification and for electrification retrofits as their analyses show we can't meet city or county targets in reducing emissions without this work, and if we can't, the state won't be able to either. An all hands on deck approach is the only solution. By changing the code to fossil fuel free new residential buildings you will be addressing indoor and outdoor air quality. Requiring heat pumps that provide heating and cooling will help utility costs and provide cooling benefits with future summer heat waves. Habitat for Humanity in Tacoma Pierce County already uses heat pumps in its low income housing and that choice is deliberate both economically and environmentally.

Please move the building code forward to require all new residential construction to be all electric. At this point even gas stoves should be eliminated in new construction for indoor air quality and the cost savings of no gas pipelines or gas connection fees for owners.

Thank you,

Elly Claus-McGahan

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